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volume. It lifts a corner of the curtain on the deliberations of the conference and for this reason, at least, can be counted as one of the indispensable volumes for this period.

Mr. Stephane Lauzanne has been for many years one of the better-known French journalists and the editor of the *Matin*. As in the case of his fellow worker, Andre Tardieu, formerly of the *Temps*, the French government has availed itself of his services as member of diplomatic missions, and he was in the United States as member of the French mission during the war. In the third volume of this list M. Lauzanne has drawn on his great knowledge of French politics of the past to give pen pictures of a row of French statesmen. To these he has added a group of American statesmen more superficially drawn, a pen portrait of Lloyd-George, and several chapters on America during the war. The best chapters are those devoted to the French statesmen, especially the ones devoted to Delcasse, Poincare, and Clemenceau. The latter is written in a thoroughly critical vein, for M. Lauzanne is a French imperialist who is not in sympathy with the kind of peace which the "Tiger" gave to France. The greatest value of the book for American students lies in the bits of hitherto unpublished information which are scattered through the volume. The policy of Delcasse is placed in a new light, and students of recent history will need to study the criticism of Clemenceau in view of the facts presented. It is a book, perhaps, to be skimmed rather than read, but it certainly deserves attention.

Literature on the peace conference and the European settlement is increasing rapidly and it has long since become necessary to pick and choose. In these three volumes three types of mind look at these events and give their verdicts, each in its fashion: those of the expert, the diplomat, the well-informed Frenchman. As a psychological study as well as because of the facts presented these three works may be commended to the American student.

MASON W. TYLER

*Select British documents of the Canadian war of 1812.* Edited, with an introduction, by William Wood. In 3 volumes. Volume I. (Toronto: The Champlain society, 1920. 678 p.)

After an interval of four years, the Champlain society has resumed publication of its very valuable series of historical texts relating to the history of Canada. One may properly take advantage of the occasion to recall that, since its organization some fourteen years ago, the society has published thirteen volumes, including Grant and Biggar's edition of Lescarbot's *History of New France*; Ganong's editions of Denys' *Description and natural history of the coasts of North America* and of Le Clercq's *New relation of Gaspesia*; Munro's *Documents relating to the seigniorial tenure in Canada*; Wood's *Logs of the conquest of*

*Canada*; Doughty's edition of Knox's *Historical journal of the campaigns in North America*; and Tyrrell's editions of Hearne's *Journey from Hudson's bay to the northern ocean*, and Thompson's narrative of his explorations in western America. Conditions arising out of the war, and particularly the impossibility of getting the paper which the society required, made it impossible to publish anything between 1916 and 1920. The society then had on hand several important volumes, or the material for them, ready for publication, but it was decided to give first place to William Wood's *Select British documents of the Canadian war of 1812*. This is to be in three volumes, the first of which is now published.

One need not remind students of American history — interpreting "American" in the broad sense — that up to a comparatively short time ago the only histories of the war of 1812, from either the United States or the Canadian standpoint, were hopelessly inaccurate as to their facts and equally biased in their interpretation of those facts. These were in fact not so much histories as partisan arguments, based almost entirely upon secondary authorities, and they described not what actually happened but rather what the writer would like to have had happen. Within the last decade or two we have had several contributions, by both Canadian and American historians, to the history of the war of 1812 that represent an entirely different point of view. These books either present the original documentary material upon which history must be based, with such editorial equipment as will make them of the greatest possible service to students, or they represent the scholarly and impartial interpretation of those documents in the form of history. Examples of this kind of historical writing, on the Canadian side, are General Cruikshank's *Documentary history of the campaign on the Niagara frontier*; Lucas' *Canadian war of 1812*; Egerton's *Historical geography of Canada*, chapter 7 of which deals with the war of 1812; and the book now under review.

Obviously it would be impracticable, or at any rate undesirable, to attempt to bring together in printed form all the documents relating to the war of 1812, from either the American or the Canadian standpoint. What Colonel Wood has attempted to do has been to select from the immense body of material, chiefly in the Canadian archives at Ottawa, those documents that are really vital to a clear understanding of the various movements on the long frontier in the years 1812, 1813, and 1814. Colonel Wood does not, of course, attempt to give the corresponding American documents, except in a few cases where the thread of the narrative might otherwise be lost.

There probably would be differences of opinion among competent scholars as to which one of several available documents relating to a

particular episode in the war of 1812 would be most useful to students, or would most clearly reveal the sequence of events; and it is therefore not to be expected that every one competent to express an opinion will agree that Colonel Wood has in every case made an ideal selection. It is not at all too much to say, however, that, so far as his work may be judged by this first volume, the selection has been made with discrimination and with a keen appreciation of the relative values and inter-relationships of the many factors entering into this small but by no means unimportant war.

While this book does not pretend to be a history of the war of 1812, being rather "a contribution towards the original evidence on which true history must be based," Colonel Wood has, nevertheless, provided in an introduction of some 132 pages a really admirable sketch of such a history — scholarly, accurate, carefully balanced, and concisely expressed, in the same unusually attractive style which we have learned to expect from the author of *The fight for Canada* and *The logs of the conquest of Canada*. This introduction is, of course, to the work as a whole. So far as the documents are concerned, volume 1 includes groups 1 and 2 of the narrative documents, the period of military and naval preparation, 1801-1812, and the events of 1812 on the Niagara, Detroit, and Montreal frontiers and in the west. There are eleven illustrations, including several portraits of Brock and a facsimile of a curious letter from Wellington, written after Prevost's disgraceful failure at Plattsburg and suggesting that the great field marshal might himself come out to Canada and take command. One is tempted to speculate what might have been the result, both in America and in Europe, if Wellington had opened a campaign on this side in 1815 and Waterloo had been fought without his guiding hand.

L. J. B.

*Lincoln, the world emancipator.* By John Drinkwater. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin company, 1920. 118 p. \$1.50)

If one were to pass judgment upon this little volume with the ordinary tests of this REVIEW, the answer would come quickly: *pas d'histoire*. But Mr. Drinkwater makes no claim to historical recognition. One may not, perhaps, find in this disclaimer justification for overlooking his readiness to accept the reference of "an American of pure national strain" to the "meddlesome German potentate" of 1776 as an explanation of the unpleasantness of that date. In the rôle of the artist he seeks "to make spiritual inferences from history already written and vital projections of this or that theme lying un moulded in the historian's page" (page 93). His hope is that, "rightly envisaged in the universal imagination," Lincoln may well become the emancipator of the world. To him Lincoln stands as a fitting and sufficient symbol through which